

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

To: County Clerks for the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino, and Governor's Office of Planning and Research - State Clearinghouse

From: South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Project Title: Proposed Rule (PR) 118.1 – Public Safety Provisions for Stationary Emergency Standby Engines and Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 1470 – Requirements for Stationary Diesel-Fueled Internal Combustion and Other Compression Ignition Engines

Project Location: The proposed project is located within the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (South Coast AQMD) jurisdiction, which includes the four-county South Coast Air Basin (all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties), and the Riverside County portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin and the non-Palo Verde, Riverside County portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The proposed project is comprised of PR 118.1 and PAR 1470. PR 118.1 has been developed to allow critical service facilities operating emergency standby engines to exclude operating hours during a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event and activities associated with a PSPS event from counting towards an annual operating limit of up to 200 hours. PR 118.1 also contains notification and summary report requirements for facilities that elect to exclude engine operating hours due to a PSPS event. Amendments to Rule 1470 are proposed that would establish alternative testing and maintenance requirements for applicable water and sewage facilities with in-use stationary emergency standby diesel-fueled compression ignition engines rated at greater than 50 brake horsepower that are located in a very high fire hazard severity zone but are not located in SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities. Specifically, PAR 1470 would allow applicable water and sewage facilities to conduct maintenance and testing according to an alternative schedule provided that the operating permit incorporates the alternative schedule limiting the maintenance and testing to no more than 20 hours averaged over a consecutive three-year rolling period, with no individual calendar year exceeding 30 hours. PAR 1470 also contains new definitions of terms for clarity and consistency throughout the rule.

Lead Agency Approving Project: South Coast Air Quality Management District

Lead Agency Carrying Out Project: South Coast Air Quality Management District

Exempt Status: CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) – Emergency Projects

Reasons why project is exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project pursuant to: 1) CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(k) – General Concepts, the three-step process for deciding which document to prepare for a project subject to CEQA; and 2) CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 – Review for Exemption, procedures for determining if a project is exempt from CEQA. Since the proposed project is comprised of specific actions to prevent or mitigate an emergency, the proposed project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) – Emergency Projects.

Date of Project Approval : South Coast AQMD Governing Board Hearing: October 1, 2021

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Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____



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